

United States who demonstrate exemplary performance through leadership, risk taking, innovation, vision, and customer development.

The Sales Excellence awards seek to promote and advance corporate and organizational sales excellence by recognizing organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership and strategic vision in Enterprise Sales. These honorees will each respectfully fall into the award categories of the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Woman in Sales Leadership Award, the Member of the Year Award, and the Rising Star Award.

The recipient of the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award is Ms. Toni Townes-Whitley, President, U.S. Regulated Industries, Microsoft. As president of U.S. Regulated Industries at Microsoft, Toni Townes-Whitley leads the U.S. sales strategy for driving digital transformation across customers and partners within the public sector and commercial regulated industries. Her organization is responsible for executing on Microsoft's industry strategy and go-to-market for both public sector and regulated industries in the United States, including Education, Financial Services, Government, and Healthcare. In addition to leading a sales organization, Townes-Whitley is helping to steer the company's work to address systemic racial injustice.

The recipient of the 5th Annual Women in Sales Executive Leadership Award is Ms. Courtney S. Bromley. Courtney S. Bromley has been with IBM for 31 years serving federal, state and local government agencies. In her current role she manages all the Federal Government (non-DOD/Intel) as well as the State and Local Government and Education markets across the United States as part of IBM's U.S. Federal and Public Sector Market. Her business units are responsible for IBM's cross brand execution with all the Federal, State and Local Agencies and Educational institutions including all IBM lines of business—hardware, software and services.

John Asher is the IES Member of the Year. John is the CEO of ASHER Strategies, a pre-eminent sales and marketing advisory services company. His team has trained more than 80,000 executives, salespeople and other customer facing managers in 22 developed countries over the past 19 years. His team has advised a number of Global Fortune 5000 companies including Goldman Sachs, General Dynamics, Alibaba, China Mobile and 1400 other small and medium sized companies. John is a graduate of United States Naval Academy with degrees in mathematics and nuclear engineering.

Veronica Poissant is the recipient of the IES Jay Nussbaum Rising Sales Star Award. Veronica Poissant is a Director of Inside Sales for the North American Public Sector at Red Hat, the world's leading provider of enterprise open source solutions. During her 12-year tenure at Red Hat, she has directly contributed to the strategic development of the public sector inside sales organization which has grown in size and scope by 500 percent.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Toni Townes-Whitley, Courtney S. Bromley, Veronica Poissant, and John Asher for their exceptional dedication and leadership within the business community.

## MARJORIE HASS LEAVING RHODES COLLEGE

### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to wish the best good fortune to a transformational educator, Dr. Marjorie Hass, who is leaving as President of Rhodes College in Memphis to become President of the Council of Independent Colleges, a Washington-based association of independent colleges and universities. There she will be a leading voice in national discussions of issues in higher education. In her four years at Rhodes, Dr. Hass has inspired the students, faculty and staff to maintain the stellar reputation it has gained over 173 years as one of the nation's top liberal arts institutions. Trained as a philosopher and guided by her Jewish faith, Dr. Hass has been a thoughtful decision maker as a college president, maintaining high standards in leadership development and academics. In the last four years, Rhodes has been named one of the nation's most innovative liberal arts colleges by U.S. News & World Report, a "best value" college by The Princeton Review, and Tennessee's best liberal arts college by Niche, the lifestyle and culture magazine. Dr. Hass taught philosophy for over a decade at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania, where she also directed the Center for Ethics, and holds bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from the University of Illinois—Champaign-Urbana. Before coming to Muhlenberg College, Dr. Hass served as president of Austin College in Sherman, Texas, where she worked to ensure talented students could succeed regardless of their financial background. Dr. Hass is married to Dr. Lawrence Hass, a former philosophy professor and sleight-of-hand magician, and she has two grown children, Cameron and Jessica. After her contributions to Rhodes and to our city, I look forward to seeing Dr. Hass testifying before the education committees on Capitol Hill in her new leadership position and wish her the best in this new chapter of her life.

## HONORING MR. MOHAMMAD HOSSEIN MEHRMAND

### HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mohammad Hossein Mehrmand, a constituent of mine and a former Lieutenant-General of the Imperial Iranian Air Force. Prior to 1979, Iran, was a very different country than it is today. Iran and the United States were close friends and cooperated in both trade and military affairs.

Because of this close cooperation between our two nations, Iranian military officers like Mr. Mehrmand had the opportunity to visit U.S. military installations and work closely with American servicemembers to train on U.S.-built fighter jets that were operated by the Imperial Iranian Air Force.

While the Imperial Iranian Air Force operated a number of U.S. fighter jets, they were

the sole foreign operator of one aircraft, in particular, the F-14 Tomcat. As a result of this program, Khatami Air Base was constructed by the Iranian government near the city of Isfahan in the early 1970s to cater to their new fleet of F-14s with support facilities built specifically for the Grumman Corporation. In fact, the entire region around Isfahan was booming for the American defense industry with other defense contractors like Raytheon, Lockheed, Boeing and Hughes Aircraft working on lucrative projects for the Shah's government.

As a result of the massive presence of American enterprise in the region, Isfahan was home to at least 1,200 American military members and 8,000 civilian advisers at its peak in the mid-to-late 1970s. This presence could be felt quite evidently by the massive amount of new construction marketed towards the Americans working in the region.

All of this changed in 1979 as revolutionary fundamentalists began to take over Iran. At the time, there were over 5,000 Americans living in Iran with many residing around Khatami Air Base. As the situation in the country began to deteriorate, the U.S. Embassy in Iran advised all Americans to leave the country.

At the time, Lt. General Mehrmand was the tactical commander of the Imperial Iranian Air Force and he had received information that many within the Iranian military had begun to go rogue and side with the fundamentalist revolutionaries, with many of these rogue units attempting to prevent Americans from leaving Iran.

Lt. General Mehrmand took action on behalf of our citizens and met with the rogue units to successfully negotiate the American exodus from Iran. He additionally made arrangements to allow for twenty-five special American passenger planes to enter Iranian airspace to begin evacuating all Americans from Iran. As a direct result of his efforts, nearly 5,000 Americans were safely and successfully evacuated out of the collapsing country.

Within weeks of the evacuation flights, the Imperial Iranian government collapsed, and the fanatical government of Ayatollah Khomeini took over Iran. Under the new government, Lt. General Mehrmand was branded a traitor for securing the exodus of the American people and had his property, assets, and retirement pension confiscated. Fortunately, Mr. Mehrmand was able to escape persecution in Iran and found refuge here in the United States.

Mr. Mehrmand, despite not being an American citizen, had the boldness and courage to stand up against fanaticism in the name of freedom for the American people. Today, Mr. Mehrmand is 92 years old, and a proud American citizen living happily in California. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize his patriotic actions and I want to express my profound gratitude to him for his service to our country and to our national interests.

## COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VERMEER MIDWEST

### HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize Junior Kool of Eureka, Illinois,

and Vermeer Midwest for celebrating the 50th anniversary as an outstanding company in the central Illinois area.

Vermeer Midwest first opened its doors in 1971. Founder Junior Kool, raised with hard-working American values, successfully expanded his business across four states with ten distinct locations. Providing excellent service and ample charitable donations of money, time, and people, Junior's legacy will have a lasting impact on the area.

Vermeer Midwest is known throughout Central Illinois not only for their quality underground and environmental equipment but also for the lasting relationships they develop with their customers. Junior and his wife Beverly are fondly recognized for their pure commitment to customer service and seeing their consumers through to success. Never are they hesitant to complete the job or get their boots dirty, and as their motto says, "It's simply how business is done."

The Greater Peoria area has benefited from Vermeer Midwest's goodwill and generosity since they first opened. I extend my sincere congratulations to Vermeer Midwest, Junior Kool, and all of the hard-working staff for a successful fifty years. I wish their family and company a successful future.

BENJAMIN TAYLOR AND ZACHARY ASSELTA—EAGLE SCOUTS

**HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, this past May, I had the pleasure of presenting Benjamin Taylor and Zachary Asselta their Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Both Benjamin and Zachary graduated from Millville High School last year. They completed their scout projects prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and were unable to receive their Court of Honor until this year. Benjamin's project consisted of painting the outdoor stage at Corson Park in Millville, South Jersey. Zachary's project was to put up street signs in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Millville, South Jersey. These young men should be proud of their accomplishments, and it was my honor to have the opportunity to recognize them for their service to the South Jersey community. God Bless Benjamin and Zachary and God Bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE 2021 GRADUATES OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT HIGH SCHOOL FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2021 graduating class of the Fairfax County High School Firefighter program. In 2016, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools created its High School Firefighter Program to provide training to stu-

dents who are considering a career as a firefighter.

Students who participate in this program attend courses taught by qualified instructors at the Fairfax County Fire Academy. In fact, they receive the same training as new professional and volunteer firefighters. The course is grueling but upon successful completion, the students are eligible to receive six college credits. Should these students decide to apply to the Fairfax County Fire Academy, this program will make them competitive candidates and will have prepared them for recruit school.

Fourteen seniors are graduating in the Class of 2021 of the High School Firefighter Program. It is my honor to include in the RECORD the names of the following graduates:

Seth Ballard, William Beavers, Nicholas Carpio, Peyton Czika, Moeed Ghazi, Matthew Hargrave, Mai Mohamed, Sarah Moummi, Michael Muldoon, Spencer Neyland, Robert Rupp, Joshua Scurlock, Isaac Spar, Jalen Wray.

Madam Speaker, the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is one of the best fire departments in the country and in the world. I commend the Department as well as the public school system for partnering in the creation of this program. I also applaud these young people for their desire to learn more about the Department and for their interest in protecting our community. Northern Virginia is fortunate to have such dedicated young citizens. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these students on the successful completion of this program and in wishing them success in their future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO SILVIA URIBE—CALIFORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Women of the Year Award recipient, Silvia Uribe of Goleta, California.

Silvia is a language access advocate, who has devoted her business and community service providing language services and helping people connect. Born and raised in Mexico City, Silvia and her family moved to Santa Barbara 28 years ago where she immediately began serving the community. Her business, TransilPro provides translation and interpretation services to businesses, government, community organizations, and beyond. She has a knack for creating programs that overcome language barriers, including writing Spanish curricula for the Adoption Center of Santa Barbara. Silvia's work in the community goes beyond her everyday activities.

Her passion for communication extends to media, as a radio host, writer, Univision contributor, and speaker. Whether she is invited as a guest lecturer at Santa Barbara Community College, speaking to a church group, or in her former Univision segment, En confianza con Silvia, her objective is always to be of

service by sharing information and bringing services and people together. Silvia gives her time and talents to a wide array of organizations. She started Latino Girl Scout troops in North and South Santa Barbara County and created Fun in the Sun in collaboration with the United Way. She expanded into the business world as a co-founder of Lideres Latinos in Leadership Santa Barbara County.

A longtime advocate for victims of crime in the Santa Barbara District attorney's office, Silvia also created STESA's Spanish curriculum on sexual assault and delivers volunteer training to Spanish speaking volunteers with STESA and Just Communities.

Silvia is also an active public servant. In addition to working for the DA's Victim Witness, Silvia has served as a County Human Services Commissioner and a Public Engagement Commissioner with the City of Goleta. The common thread across all these activities is Silvia's commitment to connecting members of our community—to each other and to services. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds. I am honored to recognize Silvia for her continued commitment to community and the residents of Santa Barbara County.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Silvia Uribe, for her incredible service to her community.

HONORING MR. COLEMAN WALKER'S INDUCTION TO THE TENNESSEE RADIO HALL OF FAME

**HON. JOHN W. ROSE**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2021*

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coleman Walker for his induction into the Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame.

Mr. Walker, a well-known figure of longstanding in the Tennessee Broadcast community, began his radio career in 1961 at the age of 21 as a broadcaster for WCOR-AM in Lebanon, TN. Since that time sixty years ago, robust audiences of Middle Tennesseans have tuned-in to listen whenever this talented man sits behind the microphone.

During the course of those ensuing sixty years, Mr. Walker also became a licensed insurance agent, and he currently plies his trade for Walker and Phillips Insurance in Lebanon. But he never lost his love and enthusiasm for radio broadcasting, which manifests itself today when he hosts the daily morning radio show "Coleman and Company" on WANT-FM and WCOR-AM, focusing on community affairs in Lebanon.

Through his interviews of various elected officials, business leaders, community activists, and community volunteers on his show, this Middle Tennessee broadcast legend continues to keep his countless listeners informed on the important issues of the day. As a frequent guest on Mr. Walker's show, I can attest to his fervent passion for his Lebanon, TN hometown, where he and his wife Helen raised their three sons Clark, Brian, and Mike, and now enjoy their several grandchildren.

His involvement with Lebanon and insight into the issues of the day throughout his career are unmatched and serves as a shining